

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 11, 2016

SENATE BILL

No. 1098

Introduced by Senator Cannella

February 17, 2016

An act to add Section 14005.273 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1098, as amended, Cannella. Medi-Cal: dental services: advisory group.

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which basic health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid provisions. Existing law provides coverage for certain dental services, as specified, to Medi-Cal beneficiaries 17 years of age and under through the Denti-Cal program.

This bill would establish the Denti-Cal Advisory Group in the department, as specified, for the purpose of studying and overseeing the policies and priorities of Denti-Cal with the goal of raising the Denti-Cal utilization rate among children and providing assistance and advice to the department, the Governor, and the Legislature to ensure that proposed decisions relating to the Denti-Cal program are based on the best available evidence. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Denti-Cal is the Medi-Cal dental health care component
4 program that was established soon after the 1966 creation of the
5 Medi-Cal program.

6 (2) According to an audit conducted by the State Auditor in
7 2014, only 43.9 percent of children enrolled in the Denti-Cal
8 program had seen a dentist in the previous year—a utilization rate
9 that was the 12th worst among states that submitted data to the
10 federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Eleven
11 California counties had no Denti-Cal providers or no providers
12 willing to accept new child patients covered by Denti-Cal.

13 (3) Denti-Cal's 13 million or more beneficiaries need the State
14 Department of Health Care Services and dental care providers to
15 improve their relationships.

16 (4) In any sector, public or private, good relationships are built
17 on a foundation of good customer service.

18 (b) Therefore, the Legislature establishes pursuant to this act
19 an evidence-based advisory group to guide Denti-Cal priorities,
20 to oversee policy decisions, and to increase annual Denti-Cal
21 utilization rates among children in the state to 60 percent or greater,
22 as is the case in approximately 20 percent of states.

23 SEC. 2. Section 14005.273 is added to the Welfare and
24 Institutions Code, to read:

25 14005.273. (a) There is hereby established in the department
26 the Denti-Cal Advisory Group. The duties of the advisory group
27 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

28 (1) Studying and overseeing the policies and priorities of
29 Denti-Cal, the state Medi-Cal dental services program, with the
30 goal of raising the Denti-Cal utilization rate among eligible child
31 beneficiaries to 60 percent or greater.

32 (2) Providing assistance and advice to the department, the
33 Legislature, and the Governor regarding proposed decisions relating
34 to the Denti-Cal program to ensure that those decisions are based
35 on the best available evidence.

36 (b) The advisory group shall consist of the following members:

37 (1) The state dental ~~director, who shall serve as its chair.~~
38 *director.*

1 (2) ~~Eight~~^{Ten} members appointed by the Governor that shall
2 include the following:

- 3 (A) A representative from the California Dental Association.
4 (B) A representative from the California Dental Hygienists'
5 Association.
6 (C) A licensed social worker.
7 (D) A representative of a health care foundation.
8 (E) A licensed pediatrician who is qualified to assess impacts
9 on the overall health of children.
10 (F) An expert on practices in the dental insurance or health
11 insurance markets.
12 (G) Two university professors who are experts in dental practice
13 or the dental services field.
14 (H) *A representative of a Denti-Cal health plan organization.*
15 (I) *A consumer advocate with experience in children's oral*
16 *health.*

17 (3) Two members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
18 that shall include the following:

- 19 (A) A licensed dentist.
20 (B) A licensed dental hygienist.
21 (4) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
22 that shall include the following:
23 (A) A licensed dentist.
24 (B) A licensed dental hygienist.
25 (c) Before entering upon the discharge of his or her official
26 duties, each member of the advisory group appointed pursuant to
27 this section shall take and file an oath pursuant to Sections 1360
28 and 1363 of the Government Code.
29 (d) A member of the commission shall serve for a term of three
30 years. There shall be no limit on the number of terms a member
31 may serve. The terms of members may be staggered so that the
32 terms of all members will not expire at the same time.
33 (e) A member of the advisory group shall not be compensated
34 for his or her services, except that he or she shall be paid reasonable
35 per diem and reimbursement of reasonable expenses for attending
36 meetings and discharging other official responsibilities as
37 authorized by the department and this section.

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